

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jon Ikegami on 1/14/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 6, after the word "determining", insert – , in a processor, --.

In claim 1, line 9, after the word "detecting", insert – , by a detector, --.

In claim 27, line 5, after the word "mapping", insert – , in a processor, --.

In claim 27, line 6, after the word "detecting", insert – , by a detector, --.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-13, and 15-28 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The independent claim 1 is directed to a method for converting a three-color image data set comprising C 1, C2, and C3 colors into a four-color image data set comprising C 1, C2, C3 and W colors, the method comprising: in addition to other features, determining a mapping from image data points in any one of said regions, said image data points comprising C1, C2 and C3 color values, to image data points comprising C1, C2, C3, and W; and detecting image data points that are out-of-gamut;

scaling only the out-of-gamut image data points to produce corresponding color image data points that are within gamut range, the scaling performed according to a scaling factor that is determined according to a ratio between the maximum allowed value and the maximum value of C 1, C2, C3, and W. The independent claims 15 and 27 claim the similar features. The prior art failed to show the claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, filed on 9/30/2009, with respect to claims 1-28 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Claim 14 has been canceled. Claims 1-13, and 15-28 are allowed. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIZE MA whose telephone number is (571)270-3709. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao M. Wu can be reached on 571-272-7761. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/XIAO M. WU/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2628